

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The claims have been amended to place the application in a more traditional U.S. format and/or to reduce the filing fees.

The claims have been amended during the international phase and a copy of amended pages numbered 13, 14, 15 and 16 (claims 1-14) are separately attached. Those claims have been further amended by the foregoing amendment.

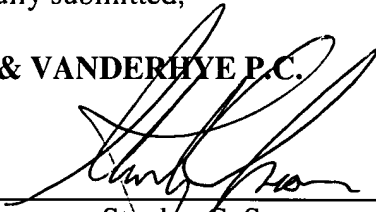
The specification has been amended to include the parent applications and to include the published Abstract.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Stanley C. Spooner  
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS:kmm  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100